

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY343884
Inspection date	11 June 2007
Inspector	Pauline Garfield
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2006. She lives with her partner and their seven year old son in Sunnyside near Rotherham. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children and occasionally works with an assistant. She is currently minding eight children on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder has National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 3 in Childcare and Education and also NVQ level 3 in Playwork.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from illness and infection as they follow good hygiene procedures, and are cared for in clean and well-maintained premises. They are encouraged to manage their own personal care and wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. The childminder provides clean individual hand towels each day for older children, and assists young children

with wiping their noses. Toys and equipment are cleaned and sterilised on a regular basis and the childminder washes her hands after changing nappies. These practices minimise the spread of infection.

All the required documentation is in place to ensure that children remain healthy. Children enjoy a good range of healthy meals and snacks. Menus are planned on a two week rota and take into account children's dietary needs and preferences. Baby food and milk is provided by parents. Children enjoy snacks of vegetable sticks, bananas and strawberries. Fresh drinking water is available to children at all times.

Children benefit from a good range of physical activity. They are able to play in the garden on the trampoline or with the swing ball. In the summer months activities are taken outdoors to enable children to benefit from fresh air. Indoors the childminder rolls cars to young children and they enjoy catching the vehicles. Children are able to rest or be active according to their individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe on outings. For example, the childminder has a double pram for young children and pushchairs and wrist straps for older children. Children are taught not to walk near the road side, and to look right and left when crossing the road. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own safety. The childminder practises the fire evacuation procedure once a week. She makes the procedure fun as well as a learning experience. For example, children make a line to exit the premises and sing a song about the evacuation procedure.

The childminder has a very good range of equipment, toys and resources which are attractively displayed and arranged in the playroom. These are well maintained, of a high standard and meet safety requirements. The childminder has a good understanding of safety and fully supervises children at all times.

The childminder understands her responsibilities to protect and safeguard children. She has attended a child protection foundation course and knows the procedures to follow if she has any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children settle into the impressive environment exceptionally well, and are happy, confident and eager to explore. They become engrossed in a wide range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities. For example, making play dough, sewing and baking indoors, and ball play outdoors. The childminder has attended 'Birth to three matters' training and plans superb activities. Written weekly activity plans are in place, which are evaluated to ensure children's intellectual capabilities are developed.

The childminder knows the children well and encourages them to be confident and build on their natural curiosity as learners. Children show wonder as the childminder lifts shredded paper from a box and they find farm animals. Children's language and literacy is encouraged as they find their own name cards and attempt to write their names on pictures. The childminder extends children's learning by talking about the weather and the days of the week. Children are animated and enthusiastic about their activities and play. They laugh as they enjoy pop-up toys and sort

bricks into boxes. The childminder interacts very well and encourages colour and shape recognition. Children show high levels of curiosity, imagination and concentration as they actively explore a stimulating range of new experiences. They use their senses to enjoy pasta, jelly play and musical instruments.

Children are enthusiastically praised for their achievements and thrive as they are encouraged to develop milestones, such as crawling and walking. Older children enjoy an excellent range of games and activities, for example, board games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities to promote a positive view of the wider world, increasing children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. For example, using books, posters, dolls and festivals to celebrate other cultures. Children are valued and respected as individuals, and an empathy doll is used to talk about feelings.

Children show care and concern for others and play harmoniously together, sharing toys and equipment. House rules are in place and children are very well behaved. The childminder has a positive approach to behaviour management which is age and developmentally appropriate. The childminder works well with parents to ensure parents are kept well informed of their children's care. She observes and records children's achievements. However, written permission from parents to record children's achievements is not in place. The childminder has a compliments, complaints and concerns book. Parents are very happy with the care and structure that is provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has good documentation in place which is well organised. She occasionally works with an assistant and they work well together to provide good quality childcare. Space is used exceptionally effectively and children benefit from an attractive playroom with activities and resources which are well planned. The childminder is organised in her routines and shows a sound knowledge of the needs of babies and young children.

The childminder has attended all the required training courses and has early years qualifications. She is committed to providing a quality service and enhancing her knowledge further through regular training. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- obtain written permission from parents to record observations of children.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk